

December 15, 2020
ZOOM Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions, Announcements, Approval of Minutes: Marilyn Moritz, Vice Chair

As Chair Mike Beringer was momentarily experiencing technical difficulties, , the meeting was called to order by Marilyn Moritz, NESCA Vice Chair. Mike rejoined the meeting as it was in progress. Marilyn introduced herself and everyone in attendance then introduced themselves.

A motion to approve the November 17 meeting minutes, as provided, was made and seconded. Motion carried.

2. Police Officer Report: Cpl. David Smith

Cpl. Smith has been on SPD for 12 years and has been acting Swing Shift Supervisor for the past month. Crime information:

- All over Salem, not just in NE or in NESCA, car break-ins are increasing. Most alarming is the number of firearms that are being left in cars and then stolen. Nearly all are thefts of opportunity by finding cars that are not locked. Very few of the cars are being stolen, simply being gone through looking for anything of value. The usual situation of cars being stolen while sitting in the driveway warming up has happened so Cpl. Smith reminded everyone not to leave a running car unattended.
- There have been some porch package thefts reported but there has not been a real pattern to the thefts, but no real pattern to the thefts making it difficult to track. He did say that it has not been a major problem.
- Geer Park. In response to concerns of a neighbor of the park regarding multiple cars at all hours, people camping, etc., Cpl. Smith will have Officer Tangney know to check on this area to ensure that the park hours are being observed.
- Explosion at Gateway Park. Nothing definitive as to what caused the explosion is known other than possibly propane tank(s) and paint cans. There was approximately 1600 square feet of damage to the surrounding area of the explosion, but no injuries reported.

3. City Councilors: Chris Hoy & Virginia Stapleton

- City Council extended the emergency order for Cascades Gateway and Wallace Marine parks for camping for six months.
 - City Manager Steve Powers will be bringing a plan to the Council within 30 days for an orderly withdrawal of unsheltered people from the two parks. Campers in the parks are currently being encouraged to voluntarily relocate to available shelters.
- Police Audit. It is currently on the next phase and there have been good conversations. There is a link to the audit on the City website with opportunities to offer suggestions. This will provide the opportunity to rethink some of what is being asked of SPD. Officers are not trained mental health specialists and they are increasingly being asked to deal with these situations. It is hoped that a new way of thinking can be provided that will allow SPD to do the jobs for which they are trained and bring in help for those areas for which they are not.
- Diversity Training. Council, City staff, and department heads has been going through a two-week, two hours per night session that has provided good information and been very helpful for everyone.
- Questions:
 - Does Salem PD have body cams?
 - Currently no.
 - Will the new Chief reinstate the gang unit?
 - The new Chief will have the ability to rebuild his team as he believes it should be with budgeting constraints, etc. considered. He has a history of having a gang unit in his previous positions, so it is likely that he will at least consider that option for Salem.

4. Guest Speaker: Jessica Blakely, Salem Housing Authority

Jessica spoke this evening about the Yaquina Hall project on the North Campus. The plat issue has now been resolved and SHA can begin to go forward in its mission to redevelop the building into affording housing units. The building is historic and a great building and, even with the interior renovations, the exterior will look the same as it always has. The building will be divided into 52 single, 1-bedroom units which can house up to three people. A requirement for occupancy is that at least one individual in an apartment must be using on-site services such as addiction and recovery or mental health. Office spaces are also included in the remodel.

Following environmental reviews, it is hoped to have construction begin sometime between June and September of 2021 with an approximate completion date of one year.

Questions:

- Will tours be available?
 - Jessica said that tours will be available, and she will see to it that NESCA gets the first tour.
- Parking/Landscaping/Playground?
 - There are currently 55 parking spaces between Yaquina Hall and the park which will be sufficient for the building.
 - As the building is adjacent to the park grounds, there is no additional playground area planned.
- Residential requirements, any supervision?
 - Although there are no “clean & sober” requirements and no “supervision,” there will be case managers on-site, but the main requirement will be following the rules of peace and quiet and being good neighbors.
 - SHA will be partnering with Bridgeway for mental health needs of the residents and they will possibly be dispensing Rx. But the facility is not an “institution” and SHA is only acting as landlords for the apartment units.

4. Guest Speaker: Rob Romanek, Park Planner, Salem Public Works

Rob joined this evening’s meeting to provide an update to the Geer Park “Preferred Plan.” Additional community comments can be made through 12/24/2020. Additional comments received will be added to the plan and will go to the Advisory Board in 2021 for their recommendations. Rob requested a written endorsement from NESCA on the plan. At this time, no recommendation to do so has been voted on by the Board but will be discussed in the future.

<https://geer-salem.hub.arcgis.com/>

In response to a question about the safety of park users along the Park Avenue extension, Rob said there will be a walk path on the park property adjacent to the street which will provide a safe place to walk other than in the street. The Park Avenue extension is actually a private road put in by the State Hospital it moved to their new South Campus facility. There is likely more traffic on the street than was expected. When Geer Avenue is opened to Hawthorne, some of the Park Avenue traffic will likely diminish.

Standing storm water which breeds mosquitos was mentioned. Rob will share this information with the Parks Department for their assistance. Robb mentioned that the “D Street Park” (D/23rd NE/25th NE) is now officially a city park. After consultations with the city forester in response to community concerns, the new sidewalk along D Street is now scheduled to be only 35’ from the curb rather than the originally stated 60’.

4. Guest Speaker: Evan Sekulic, Project Manager Jory Apartments

Evan brought everyone up to date on current events at the project. Utilities are currently being installed, doing storm drains and water pipes. They hope to be able to begin putting in some foundations soon. Evan mentioned “half-street” improvements that will be made on the south side of D Street and on the west side of Park Avenue: sidewalks (inside the tree line), planter boxes will be along the streets to provide a welcome appearance to the development, curbs will be installed, and half-street paving will be done.

5. Committee Reports:

a.Land Use

Ian Johnson

- Ian said that except for Yaquina Hall, the D Street Park, and North Campus, it has been relatively quiet.
- Ian suggested that since Representative Brian Clem (along with Senator Peter Courtney) was so helpful to NESCA in getting the D Street Park for the neighborhood, Yaquina Hall saved for the Salem Housing Authority, and help in working with Mountain West it would be a nice gesture to send him a thank you.
 - It was suggested that a letter be written to include not only Rep. Clem and Sen. Courtney, but also the Mayor and City Council to thank them for facilitating the park purchase. NESCA Secretary Teri Lupoli was asked to write the letter.

Marilyn Moritz, NESCA Vice Chair, brought up the possibility of naming the park the “Ian Johnson D Street Park”. Without Ian’s knowledge and guidance several years ago when DAS was first planning to sell the property, we would NOT have the park. Ian said he is flattered but there is a naming process that needs to be followed. Marilyn will find out what she can about how parks are named.

b.Transportation

Julie Redden (not in attendance; no report)

c.Parks

Eli Brody (not in attendance; no report)

d.Hoover School

Teri Lupoli

- No contact has been made with the school since last month. Teri will call Principal Bridget West after the first of the year for any updates and Hoover news.

e.Watershed

Gary Pullman

- There has been work on the east side of Englewood Park. Some trees are coming out. As trees require maintenance, water, and time, Gary asked if anyone had ideas on where to put new trees.
- Virginia Stapleton, City Councilor elect, mentioned that Milan Davis, City Forester, is wanting to add 2,000 trees to the city. Thinking out loud, Virginia suggested the possibility of a program to “adopt a tree”, possibly with a credit on water bills or other incentives to plant a tree on private property. It is possible that people are opting out of some of the parking strip trees and more education may be needed.
- Robb suggested that these comments could be a part of the city’s Climate Action Plan and should be added to a meeting Agenda.

f. Oregon State Hospital North Campus Ian Johnson

No additional report.

6.Other Business:

2019 NESCA By-Law changes: It was determined that the 2019 NESCA By-Law changes were never formally adopted. The change was made to allow the board to vote via electronic devices when it was not possible to be together for a physical meeting. The change was necessitated by the sudden need for the Board to vote on an item that was in between monthly meetings. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Amended By-Laws. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

There being no further business, Mike Beringer, Chair, thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM. **Our next scheduled meeting will be held via ZOOM on January 19, 2021, beginning at 7:00 PM.**

Submitted by: Teri Lupoli
NESCA Secretary/Treasurer

Attending:

Mike Beringer*, Marilyn Moritz*, Teri Lupoli*, Gary Pullman*, Ian Johnson, Jim Lupoli, Lucy Beringer, Julie Frasier, Mark Neuman, Lynn Takata, Chris Hoy City Councilor, Virginia Stapleton City Councilor-Elect, Evan Sekulic Construction Manager Jory Apartments, Jessica Blakely Salem Housing Authority, Rob Romanek Park Planner/Salem Public Works, Cpl. David Smith Salem Police Department

*NESCA Board Members